



# Seattle Police Department

## Policies & Procedures

### *Search and Seizure*

## **6.255 – Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)**

Effective Date:

7/18/2012

### **6.255-POL**

This policy applies to the use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) by the Seattle Police Department.

#### **1. Use of UAS Limited to Specific Circumstances**

UAS will only be deployed in response to specific requests to deploy as listed below. UAS will not be used to provide random surveillance.

- UAS will only be used to gain an aerial perspective consistent with the open view doctrine.
- UAS may only be used to provide investigative support in the following circumstances:
  - Criminal investigations
  - Missing persons
  - Barricaded subjects
  - Hot pursuit of suspects
  - Hazardous materials spills
  - Natural disasters
  - Mutual aid for public safety missions
  - Specific situations with the direct authorization of the Assistant Chief of the Homeland Security Bureau

#### **2. Homeland Security has Operational Control**

#### **3. Homeland Security Supervisor Screens Deployment**

A field supervisor will screen all requests to use UAS and a Homeland Security supervisor will screen all deployments. {See 6.255 –PRO – 1 (UAS Call-Out)}

- Deployment will be made consistent with the current Seattle Police Department Unmanned Aerial System Operations Manual.

#### **4. Only Trained Officers will Operate UAS**

Training will be administered by the Homeland Security Section.

**5. UAS use will be Documented via Flight Logs**

Homeland Security Section will be responsible for storing the UAS flight logs and training records.

6.255 – PRO-1 (UAS Call-Out)

Action taken by:

Action:

**Officer:**

1. **Recognizes** the need for UAS deployment
2. **Contacts** a supervisor
- 2a. **Explains** why a UAS is needed

**Supervisor:**

3. **Determines** if the situation meets the criteria for UAS deployment
- 3a. If it does, **advises** communications to contact a UAS supervisor.

**Communications:**

4. **Contacts** a UAS supervisor
- 4a. **Explains** the situation

Directive 12-032 and DP&P 6.255 have been rescinded, by the order of A/C McDonagh.

Questions about this directive may be directed to Detective Brendan Kolding, Professional Standards Section, at (206) 684-5751 or [Brendan.Kolding@Seattle.gov](mailto:Brendan.Kolding@Seattle.gov).

The online manual has been updated to reflect these changes.

August 15, 2012

D 12-032

**RESCINDED**

**DP&P 6.255 - Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)**

DP&P 6.255 – Use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) has been added to the manual.

Key points to the new policy:

- UAS will only be used to gain an aerial perspective consistent with the open view doctrine. They will not be used for random surveillance and may only be used in the following circumstances:
  - **Criminal investigations**
  - **Missing persons**
  - **Barricaded subjects**
  - **Hot pursuit of suspects**
  - **Hazardous materials spills**
  - **Natural disasters**
  - **Mutual aid for public safety missions**
  - **Specific situations with the direct authorization of the Assistant Chief of the Homeland Security Bureau**

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